

IBM

(Taylor)

IBM

Research Center
P. O. Box 218, Mohansic Laboratory
Yorktown Heights, New York

International Business Machines Corporation

Telephone: PEekskill 7-6600

October 28, 1960

Professor J. Lederberg
Department of Genetics
School of Medicine
Stanford University Medical Center
Palo Alto, California

Dear Professor Lederberg:

In response to your recent request to Mr. T. J. Watson, Jr., for information about our Medical Symposium, I am happy to enclose herewith a copy of the Proceedings from our 1959 meeting and to place your name on our distribution list for the 1960 Proceedings, which will be sent to you as soon as they are ready.

The Proceedings of the 1959 Symposium include a paper, prepared by Dr. Tanimoto of IBM Research, on the application of computer methods to the classification of disease. Also included is a related write-up telling of the application of this same procedure in botanical taxonomy.

The public press for the last year, or so, has contained many articles telling of various attempts to exploit the use of computers in the area of medical diagnosis. The material referred to in the preceding paragraph tells about one possible approach to this problem. We do not feel, however, that either this approach, nor the methods reported by others, have gone nearly far enough to provide a practical working method which will be of real benefit to the physician. Exploratory work is continuing in this field, and we think that a technique will ultimately be found which can yield useful information for medical purposes.

I would be very much interested in learning of your own views on this subject, since there is a wide diversity in the opinions of medical people themselves.

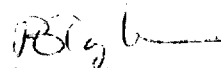
Taylor, R.

Professor J. Lederberg

Page -2-

We very much appreciate your writing to us about our Medical Symposium, and we hope that you will not hesitate to write us again if we can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'RT', followed by a horizontal line.

Richard Taylor, Manager
Medical Equipment Research

RT/cf
Enclosure